

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 20-21 and 23-37 are pending in this application, with Claim 20 amended, Claim 22 cancelled, and Claims 29-37 added by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 22 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; Claim 20 was rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claim 1 of Ho (U.S. Patent No. 6,340,980, hereinafter Ho); Claims 21, 23, 24, and 28 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claim 1 of Ho in view of Knowlton (U.S. Patent No. 5,283,864, hereinafter Knowlton); Claims 25-27 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claim 1 of Ho in view of Knowlton and Henckel et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,463,725, hereinafter Henckel et al.); Claims 20, 21, 23, 24, and 28 were rejected under U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Knowlton; Claims 25-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knowlton in view of Henckel et al.; and Claim 22 was indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

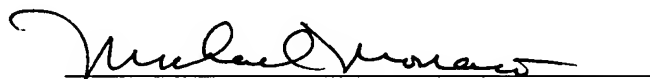
Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter.

Claim 20 is amended to recite all the features of allowable Claim 22. Applicants also have filed herewith a terminal disclaimer. Also, Applicants traverse the rejection of original Claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicants submit that antecedent basis for the terms in question is provided in the lines prior to the lines cited in the Official Action. New Claims 29-37 are directed to means-plus-function and computer program product embodiments of the invention recited in amended Claim 20. Support for these new claims is found in Applicants originally filed specification. No new matter is added.

Accordingly, in view of the present amendment and in light of the previous discussion, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request an early and favorable action to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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